

put in a service of fifteen years and had been for the past ten years a draftsman was recently disbanded from the service with the recent reform of the Revenue Department. At least in the next vacancy, he should be posted as a Revenue Supervisor.

The principle of seniority among acting men adopted in the matter of initial appointments in the Secretariat was a source of hardship to the Mahomedans. The Mahomedans should be given priority over others if he had been in the Secretariat even for a day.

The rule debarring the entertainment of persons over twenty-five years of age in the service should be relaxed so far as the Mahomedans were concerned, as they were backward in point of education. Mahomedan youths who passed out successfully in the Vernacular School Leaving Certificate Examination should be entertained in the Education and other departments.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Navurkani Rowther, one point of your speech which seems to call for special attention is your request that the longstanding 25 year age rule should be abrogated in favour of Mahomedans. Frankly, I tell you I do not believe that a man who is unable to pass his B. A. degree examination before 25 is any good at all. It either means that he is dull intellectually or lazy or an invalid. That rule therefore had better stand. It would best ensure your best men to come on quickly.

178. Ezhavas and the Public Service.

MR. MULUR S. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Government should see that the Ezhavas were not denied their rights in the matter of public service. They were not properly represented in the ranks of the Peishkars, Judges, Sirkar Vakils, Munsiffs, Tahsildars, Magistrates, etc. The Ezhava community was grieved to find that the Government were not kind enough to appoint an Ezhava District Judge as a Peishkar, or a High Court Vakil of ten years' standing as a Sirkar Vakil or Judge, or another clever man as a Munsiff, or a Tahsildar as an Assistant Secretary to Government or an Inspector of Police or a clerk in the Huzur Office with B. L. degree as Magistrate. There was only one Ezhava as Stationary Magistrate. He had not yet been confirmed. Even though there were three or four Ezhavas with English university qualifications, they had not received any encouragement from the Government. There were several boys and girls in the community who had passed the School Leaving Certificate Examination, Registration and other tests, Vidvan Examination, etc., but could not get employment in any department, and as the departmental heads did not consider their claims, they were now past twenty five years of age. In such cases, the Government should kindly relax the twenty-five year age limit.

At the session of the Assembly held in 1099 also, he had represented these matters. Nothing came out of any of those representations and therefore he said he had to repeat them at the current session also. Each application received by the Government should be forwarded to the heads of departments concerned with the necessary advice in regard to the action to be taken on it.

From time immemorial, the Ezhavas had acquired exceptional proficiency in the Ayurveda system of medicine, and yet they were not represented in the Department of Ayurveda. This omission should be made good.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Panikkar, whatever might have been the position years ago, it is entirely different to-day. To-day, the Ezhavas are held in as much respect and honour as what used to be considered peculiar to the higher castes in olden days. To-day, every community in Travancore is held to be in the same position.

In the matter of the twenty-five year rule, although that has been and will now with redoubled force be the general rule, the Government will always be prepared to consider exceptional cases for exceptional treatment.

I shall at once make enquiries as to why the Ezhavas who have been for so many years, I might almost say, for centuries, distinguished *Vaidyans* are not adequately represented in the Ayurveda Department as you say. Wherever possible, I shall see that well qualified and distinguished Ezhava *Vaidyans* are admitted into the Ayurveda Department.

179. Kammalas and the Public Service.

MR. K. NARAYANAN ASARI (*Member, Nominated*) said that he had to say only what he said at the previous session of the Assembly; for, however much it might be repeated, he doubted if any good would result from it. The Kammalas feared whether their disabilities could be wholly removed. That they were not progressing even slowly was the result of the attitude of the Government towards them. The departmental heads were even unkind to the few qualified members of the community who sought Government service. When that was the attitude of the officers of the Government, how could a community hope to progress. Dewan Mr. Raghaviah promised to show special consideration in the matter of Government appointments to communities backward in education and material wealth. But the promise was never fulfilled and none of the applicants, whose list was also presented to the Dewan was appointed in the service. On the other hand, several appointments had since then been made superseding the claims of those applicants. No decision was come to on the application, dated the 29th Chingam, 1101, of Mr. B. Krishnan Asari for promotion as an Excise Inspector. No action was also taken on the application made direct to the Dewan. The Member did not want to make a long list of disappointed men of his community. The Government should issue stringent circulars to provide applicants from the backward communities suitable places in the service. He also mentioned the names of Messrs. Umamahesvaran B. A. (Hons.), and Janardanan B. A., and said that they were not able to get a place anywhere in the State service. There was a Tutor's vacancy in the College. Umamahesvaran, the first Honours graduate from the community should be appointed to that place.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayanan Asari, all these matters will be placed on record and considered.

180. Public Service.

MR. K. I. KOCHEEPPAN MAPPILLAI (*Member, Nominated*) said that the real test of a progressive administration was the removal of inequalities of opportunities for service. It was with a view to afford equality that His Highness, the late Maha Raja commanded the separation of the Devaswoms from the Revenue Department. The results have not been as beneficent as anticipated, for in the Tiruvalla taluk which might be taken as an illustration, of the 29 *Proverthikars*, 31 accountants and 58 peons employed in the 29 *Pakuthi* Cutcherries in the taluk, there were only two Christians and one Brahmin. Similar conditions prevailed also in the neighbouring taluks. The present Peishkar was doing his best to remove this anomaly. The Christians of Tiruvalla are numerically more than twice as strong as the Nairs; and the present state of affairs is the cumulative result of the series of appointments made in years past by successive Peishkars and Tahsildars. The Member did not desire to bring down the position of the Nairs, and was well aware of their prominent social, economic and political status. In the same way, Brahmins had earned the regard of all classes of people in the State. It was a Brahmin who conferred rights of ownership of land on the ryots; it was another Brahmin who founded the Popular Assembly. He only wanted that it should not appear that one particular community was excluded from service and that a remedy should soon be discovered. A list of officers in the Revenue Department should be got down and orders issued to confine future appointments to the unrepresented communities on the basis of population.

The Devaswom Department was not open to all classes; but it was being used as a stepping stone or short cut to higher appointments in the Revenue Department. This arrangement has aggravated the evil. The Devaswom Department had enough officers of all grades to be constituted into a separate and self-contained service. The transfer or promotion of officers from the Devaswom Department to other departments should be discontinued.